

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, VESTRY HALL, CRANBROOK
ON THURSDAY 10TH AUGUST 2017**

PRESENT: Cllr. Veitch (in the Chair), Cllrs. Clifford, Cook, Fairweather, Fermor, Fletcher, Goodchild, Holmes, Kemp and Swann. Borough Cllr. Hannam.

APOLOGIES: Cllrs. Bunyan, Hall, Hartley, Smith and Warne.

The following statement was read out:

Members are required to declare any interests, dispensations, predetermination or lobbying on items on this agenda. Members are reminded that changes to the Register of Interests should be notified to the Clerk.

Cllr. Fletcher declared a personal interest in the item on car parks as a daily user of them.

59/17: Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

Cllr. Veitch proposed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 13th July be adopted as a true record. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. Goodchild and agreed.

60/17: Car Parks Survey and Petition:

Cllr. Veitch reported that a letter had been received requesting that the Council consider the appointment of an independent parking expert to carry out a study on the overall requirements for parking in the town and to produce some recommendations on how to solve the current perceived problem of a lack of parking facilities. The letter had been signed by fifteen local businesses and was accompanied by a further thirty four signatures from their customers with comments on the lack of parking in the town. Cllr. Veitch suggested that a working group be set up to identify the best way forward and the most effective way to gather all the information required. Cllrs. Fairweather, Fermor, Fletcher Holmes and Swann agreed to volunteer for the group. Cllr. Veitch had already made some tentative enquiries with a company that uses ANPR to gather information, which can also be used for enforcement if required. Cllr. Holmes felt that any information gained should be used to draw up a five year plan which should include traffic management. Cllr Cook suggested that as the Task Leader for Infrastructure on the NDP that Matt Warne should also be invited to join the working group.

61/17: Chairmans Report:

The Chairman reported on the sad passing of Albert (Bert) Lindsay, who was Chairman of this Council from 1991-2. She stated she would be writing a letter of condolence to his family.

She had attended a fundraising course in Tunbridge Wells that concentrated on how to make applications for funds. It was an interesting session, and her notes and the handouts are lodged with the Clerks.

She stated that she had a copy of the letter that our MP Helen Grant had sent to the CEO of the Co-operative Group at the end of July in order to help resolve the rights of access issue. She was not aware of any response as yet.

She advised that she had been in active discussions with TWBC to try and get some action on the public toilets problem. She had met with the Co-op Store Manager on Monday, and suggested that they might consider including several toilets for public use as part of their planned refurbishment. It will be added to the agenda of her meeting with James Carter, South-East Region Property Manager September. She had learnt today that TWBC will be seeking to get estimates for boarding up most of the public toilets, permanently, but renovating a single toilet suitable for disabled access.

The Sissinghurst fete will be on August Bank Holiday as usual. The NDP group will be manning a stall, so she was not suggesting that there should be a separate Parish Council stall, however, we would be providing the usual information in case it is needed. She hoped many of the Councillors would attend. It is always an enjoyable occasion.

She reminded everyone of the planned closures of Charing Cross, Waterloo East and London Bridge for the period Saturday 26th August to Saturday 2nd September.

She also reminded Members that the next Full Council meeting would be held in Sissinghurst.

Reports from Committees:

62/17: Policy & Resources:

Cllr. Swann gave a report of the meeting as he had chaired it, in the absence of Cllr. Goodchild. He was pleased to report that the accounts had been received back from the external auditor and there were no issues raised.

Cllr. Clifford wish to record the enormous amount of work undertaken by Cllr. Fermor as features editor of Parish Cake and reiterated to Committee Chairmen that if they would like to provide copy for any projects their Committees were undertaking, he would be happy to award them the editorial space they needed in which to promote their activities. Cllr. Swann proposed adoption of the Minutes of the meeting held on 8th August, this was seconded by Cllr. Goodchild and agreed.

63/17: Planning & Preservation Management:

In the absence of Cllr. Bunyan, Cllr. Cook referred to the minutes of the meetings held on 18th July and 1st August and invited questions. None were raised.

64/17: Burials & Properties:

Cllr. Clifford reported on the site meeting held on 18th July. He highlighted the decision on which quote had been accepted for the tree surgery in Sissinghurst Cemetery. The Committee had taken the view that the more expensive quote was better long term value for the Council and that the successful contractor had interpreted the tree safety survey well. At the request of Cllr. Fletcher, it was agreed that the way quotes are looked at and reported would be examined at the next Policy and Resources meeting in September, to see if our current practices could be improved. He also highlighted the work the Deputy Clerk is doing in updating fire risk assessments for all the properties for which the Parish Council is responsible.

Cllr. Fermor's offer to investigate the Woodland Trust's campaign of donating free trees to schools and communities was accepted.

Cllr. Veitch proposed the minutes of the meeting held 18th July be adopted, this was seconded by Cllr. Cook and agreed.

65/17: Environmental Management:

Cllr. Fairweather advised that the next meeting was on Tuesday 19th September.

66/17: Neighbourhood Development Plan:

In the absence of Cllr. Warne, Cllr. Kemp referred to the minutes of the meeting held on 24th July and invited questions. In response to Cllr. Cook, he confirmed that the housing needs survey to be undertaken by TWBC was started in July and would be borough wide but broken down into local figures for the various parishes.

He also commented on the excellent consultation event being held at the High Weald Academy on the plans for the new school buildings. Several Members commented positively on the display. It was hoped that it would be completed by May 2019 and would increase capacity to 1050 pupils and allow the school to offer a wider curriculum.

Cllr. Swann voiced the confusion he felt regarding the policy themes and which task groups he should sign up for, after reading the minutes. Cllr. Cook responded by clarifying the processes the task groups would undertake, the investigations necessary and how when the information was collated how it would be used. Cllr. Veitch suggested that a calendar of events be produced for Members to ensure a better understanding of the processes.

Cllr. Kemp proposed adoption of the minutes, seconded by Cllr. Cook and agreed. Cllr. Swann abstained.

67/17: Cranbrook Conservation Area Committee:

Cllr. Swann referred to the draft minutes of the meeting held on the 26th July, which had been circulated and invited questions. In response to Cllr. Cook he confirmed that CCAAC had enquired about the painting of the howitzer which was in need of doing. It was confirmed that Cllr. Clifford would deal with the query as the councillor responsible for the Cranbrook War Memorial. A concern was raised regarding the further deterioration of the former Windmill Pub, Cllr. Kemp thought more could be done if the building was listed. Cllr. Swann agreed to take request to CCAAC. Cllr. Goodchild enquired about the mention of the possible solution to the Providence Chapel. Cllr. Kemp in his position as a member of the Crane Valley Land Trust confirmed that they were looking into purchasing it and repairing it, using independent finance options.

68/17: KALC:

There was nothing to report.

69/17: Cranbrook Tourism Group:

Cllr. Holmes advised the date for the next meeting was yet to be agreed.

70/17: Clerk's Report:

The Clerk had received information from the Co-Op that they had set up a food bank collection point instore today.

71/17: Correspondence:

A card had been received from Cranbrook Primary School, thanking the Parish Council for the recent grant of £300 towards the cost of their 5 & 10K runs.

72/17: Items for Information:

- (a) Cllr. Fairweather advised that work was due to start on the Countryside Properties site in Common Road next week.
- (b) Cllr. Clifford wished to record his thanks to local resident Mr. Andrews, for suggesting that he contact the Director of Music from Frittenden Church to invite her to look at the organ in the Chapel. She has now made several visits and suggestions, so there is much for his Committee to consider.
- (c) Cllr. Holmes reported that the Transport Accessibility Group were in discussion with Arriva to resolve issues with the No.5 schools service which currently runs from Hawkhurst to Maidstone but on the return terminates at Cranbrook, which means those children that come from Hawkhurst need to be collected from Cranbrook which is unsatisfactory.
- (d) Cllr. Holmes advised the next meeting for the Hop Pickers Line has been scheduled for 12th September.
- (e) Cllr. Holmes advised that Cranbrook Museum was opening on Sunday afternoons during August.

73/17: Report from Borough Councillor James Hannam:

Cllr. Hannam referred to the Issues and Options document for the Local Plan and where the 13,000 houses would be likely to go? The suggestion of two new ‘garden villages’ appears to be gathering support. It is a real possibility that one of those settlements may be located in the ward of Sissinghurst and Frittenden, because not much of the area is in the AONB and it is not on a floodplain. He reiterated that no decision has yet been made, but he wanted to share his concerns and would keep the Parish Council apprised of the situation.

He referred to the recent Council meeting where the strength of feeling in Tunbridge Wells against the new theatre and office block were discussed. The opposition to the plans from people living in Tunbridge Wells was not centred on cost, as it is in the rural area, but more about the loss of Calverley Grounds. The £2m that would need to be earmarked to cover interest costs would be difficult to raise but not impossible. It would depend upon residents being charged £30 for a garden bin along with the revenue grants that are currently given to local organisations being substantially cut, which he would continue to resist.

The meeting was closed.